

AN
Exact Relation

OF

The most Execrable Attempts

OF

JOHN ALLIN:

Committed on the Person of

His Excellency

FRANCIS Lord WILLOUGHBY

*of Parrham, Captain General of the Continent of
Guiana, and of all the Caribby-Islands,
and our Lord Proprietor.*



LONDON,

Printed for Richard Lowndes, at the white Lion in St. Pauls
Church-yard near the little North-doore.

SA 2703.3*
Gay 665.215.15

William May

Exact Relation

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY
FROM THE LIBRARY
OF A. L. BAY
JUNE 1, 1918

The most Exemplary Autobiography

OF

JOHN ALLIN.

Continued on the back of

His Excellency

FRANCIS LEE WILLOUGHBY

of Barbados, Captain General of the Continent of
Guiana, and of the Barbadoes Islands,
and one Lord Proprietor.



117-2

LONDON.

Printed for Richard Lander, at the White Lion in St. Pauls Church-yard near the little North door, 1687.

EXACT RELATION

Of the most Execrable Attempts

OF

JOHN ALLIN.

Committed on the Person of His Excellency

*Francis Lord Willoughby
of Parham, &c.*

His abominable Villain (as the sequel of this story will demonstrate him) was born in London, traded some years in Barbadoes, from whence he ran off, and on the 10. of April, Anno 57. arrived in this Colony.

Here he settled with an active industry, but much addicted to Swearing, Cursing, and Drunkenness; and on the 13. of February Anno 59. was accused and tried for horrid Blasphemy, cursing the most blessed Redeemer of the world, with expressions unfit to be named but by Devils; at the instant recital of which in his Penance and Recantation enjoined him by the Court, the very Foundation of the house wherein they sat (I being then an Auricular witness) gave a fearful crack, to the terrible amazement of all the remem-

bling Auditors. This dreadful signal of Divine displeasure wrought no remorse in this vile Blasphemer, who disregarding Scripture, and scoffing at Piety, entertained his hours of leisure with Romances, and the Lives of some bold *Romans* and daring Valiant ones; which bred in him an admiration (which he often uttered in his discourse) how any man, ~~endured with the least reason or courage~~, would on any account suffer torment or publick ignominious death, when his own hands with a stab or poison could give him ease and remedy. Besides, he would often plead that children in misery might justly curse and stab their parents who begat them to beggery. He had good natural parts, but low education, which (had he had Grace) he might have improved. His principles Atheistical; on some subjects he would discourse very rationally, especially on Planting, in which time and experience had instructed him. By his knowledge in this he advanced his humble fortune, which increasing, heightened strange apprehensions in him, at length more adapting him for Errantry than Planting; he would often say, that if he thought his labour and industry would not present him with more horses in his Country than the Emperor, he wouldavenail; and gave out, that as soon as his Estate enabled him, he would buy a ship, sail to *Constantinople*, and kill the Great Turk. That he formed converse with private men, for he was wont to blow up Parliament, destroy Kingdoms, &c. and these and such like swelling Vapours would often arise from the stony brain of this Drifter.

On the 4. of November 1646, he was exercising his usual way with the preface of Captain John Parker, who returning graced on *Allen* former blasphemy: this began a peck which ended in a Duel, and Captain Parker being wounded, *Allen* returns, expecting the issue, bearing no danger,

danger, appears, and was bound over to Sessions. Captain Parker afterwards recovering, *Allen* declared, that had he miscarried, he would have erected a large pile of wood by his Negroes, and when thoroughly kindled, would have stabbed himself, and run interies consuming flames to prevent an ignominious death.

On the 18. of November last, His Excellency arrived in this River, to the unexpressible joy of all the Inhabitants. His Excellency under God being the foundation and essence of this Colony. *Allen* was advised that His Excellency was informed in *Articles* of his Blasphemy and Duelling, and that strict inquisition was made what punishment he had undergone for such an accused. Charge, and whether since his penance and recantation, he had expressed any remorse and amendment, what life he had led, and how he came to be chosen a Representative, and possessed some Offices of eminency in the Colony, it being a deserved scandal unto it, that such a known Blasphemer should be decked with places of Dignity in it. *Allen* strongly conjured that this intelligence was blown upon His Excellency's ears by Captain Parker, whereupon he returned a very civil letter to His Excellency, in vindication of himself, utterly denying that he ever uttered those detected expressions, that the accusations were malicious, and as he was provoked by reason he had formerly committed one for knocking the Kings head, and that Captain Parker continuing his animosities against him, had kindled his prejudice and disaffection.

At Christmas all the Gentlemen near his Excellencies Plantation were invited, *Allen* although uninvitedly invited, and on this morning when Christmas day His Excellency sends for *Allen* privately into his chamber, tells him he had received his Letter whereby he had perceived his party and so that was very fit for the service of the Country,

and

and should be sorry that this business, which he had said he durst not name, should be proved against him; that he sent for him, to let him know, he was not prejudicated, but must do justice; several people had complained against the lewdness of this Country, and not only Captain *Parker*, but several others told him of the business; that he never could perceive Captain *Parker* had any prejudice to the Country (as *Allin* had alleged) and for Duelling he must and would be severe according to the Laws, it preserved mens lives, &c. But that he had no design on his Person or his Estate; *Allin* replied, that malicious tales produced strange effects, &c. and as he was going away he asked His Excellency whether his stay was any thing offensive; His Excellency replied, he would not thrust any person out of his house, but was no ways desirous of his company, till the business was cleared. This private conference in his Excellencies chamber was immediately pleased by *Allin*, and found among his papers. Immediately after this, *Allin* informs several of his acquaintance of what had past, retires, and was shy of exposing himself to the publick view; they all assured him that His Excellency had no design neither on his person nor estate, for if he had he would have secured him. Notwithstanding all their good advice *Allin* obstinate suspicion fully concluded, that His Excellency had a design upon his Vineyard (as he called it) and therefore would put him to death, this he might be fortified. This groundless apprehension made him desperately mad, and guided by an Aethiopianical Tenet, designed a most murderous inveterated revenge on his immediate Excellency, and his own death. And such a design might have had opportunity to effect his intentions, on the second of *January*, after he had made a short stiff Cough, exceeding sharp, he commanded five Negroes and a Christian servant to put some provision

into

into his Boat with some Axes and Bills, and then called another Christian servant, and told him, that if he heard he were dead, he should take what he could get, and that he gave him his freedom. This done, he directed his course to the upper end of *Parham* Plantation, and near the open ground, not far from a path leads to *Nettle*, of an old saw-pir, he commanded his Negroes to build a Hut, and sent some of them to observe whether any approached that place, and that they might be unsuspected, ordered them to carry wood on their shoulders, as if they had belonged to a Plantation near unto His Excellency's Plantation, where he sometimes walks with very slender attendance. These recreations of His Excellencies gave *Allin* encouragement for his desired convenience, but divine providence still steered His Excellency from that part, where this murderer expected him. On Monday the second of *January* His Excellency visiting a Neighbour's Plantation, came home late at the landing place, *Allin* lay undisturbed to murder him at his arrival, but a light and attendance suddenly coming down to receive him, *Allin* at that time was disappointed. The day following His Excellency honoured a Neighbour with a visit, about two leagues from *Parham*, during his absence *Allin* sent a Letter by the hands of a Negro Boy, but 'twas not left for, nor delivered to His Excellency that day, for it was late before his Birk returned. That night *Allin* called for victuals, and said, come lets eat a little before I die, his servant replied, I hope not, for Master, I hope there is no cause of fear of death, I cannot tell answered *Allin*.

The next morning being the fourth day, *Allin* sent a letter very early, by the very same Negro Boy, and charged him most strictly to deliver it with his own hand, the l'd most confidently goes to His Excellencies chamber, presents

from the Letter which was wrapped up in a leaf, and sealed
 up; and so departs: His Excellency (because to *John* stood
 out his justification, and pleaded guiltless, that the Bishop
 my for which he was accused), had sent for the papers out
 of the Records which concerned his trial, and this morning
 about the time of the delivery of *John* Lecter, received
 them, where he found three positive Depositions, his In-
 dictments, and the Sentence against him by the Court for
 his blasphemy: After this His Excellency showed my self,
 and Major *Smith* (as he was walking in this Plantation)
 none attending him besides our selves, *John* Lecter, with
 what impudency penned the infernal Copy with evidences,
 and blaspheming of him, His Excellency asked, doubted he
 have any suspicion of him, for he imputed him no injury,
 but he was bound for to take cognizance of his fearful Blas-
 phemy, and to search what judicial proceedings there had
 been about it, for such a business as this, being of a most
 dreadful nature, ought not to be shuttled over, and which
 all informed us, that for his satisfaction he had sent for, and
 that morning received all papers relating thereto. And
 as for his Duelling which *John* formerly feared as he was
 punished for, he desired worth question him upon the 11th
 and 12th Act, being it was never published nor known here.

His Excellency had summoned the Council here to at-
 tend him this evening at *Parliament*, at which time it was in-
 tended to walk to his Windmill, near the place where *John*
 lurked, arrives some Gentlemen of the Council which
 prevented him, had he gone, *John* had it the place occu-
 pied to murder him. The usual hour for evening Prayers
 being come, all went to *St. Mary's Church* as upper Church
 Room, where my self, Council, and several Gentlemen of
 the City, besides Domestic Servants, attended His Ex-
 cellency. And as his Chaplain was reading the first Lesson,

being the 13. of the 5. March, and the 17. vetice, And *Jack*
Smith after under the 15th rib, *Dr. Allen* enters the room
 with a ghastly and direful countenance, at first unknown to
 any present, and going towards His Excellency with his left
 hand somewhat extended, as if he intended some civil ad-
 dress, and his right hand aloof behind his right thigh, with
 his sharp Cutlace in it, and as soon as within reach smote at
 his Excellencies head with all his fury, and seconded his
 blow before I, who was one of his nearest, could interpose;
 immediately other Gentlemen rushed on him: at the instant
 in which I seized him, *Allen* stabs himself with his short
 Cutlace in his right side, and down he fell: all were surpriz-
 ed with amazement and horrou, and had I not with a pas-
 sionate earnestness most strictly commanded them to for-
 bear, that he might be reserved for the hand of Justice, se-
 veral would have slain him, and he bearing them cry out,
 Kill the Dog, replied, I came here to dye, to kill my Lord,
 and then my self. After I had secured him with a Guard, I
 waited on His Excellency, whom I found through Gods mer-
 cy far better than I expected, wounded in the Forehead with
 a flanting blow, but his wound hurt was
 in his left hand, with holding it up after
 he had received the first blow, had his
 forefinger and middle finger cut off, and
 had lost a third had not a large Ring
 which he wore thereon defended it. I returning to *Allen*,
 commanded him to be searched: in his pocket were found
 some Powder and Balls, and several Papers; his wound had
 large Orifice, and about his bare belly a new cord bound
 round it, for while life I know not, and charge being given to a
 Chirurgion to dress him and take care of him, I with my
 Council perused his papers, amongst which we found the
 Letter which he had writ to His Excellency, which I have

by Letters since from
Germany we understand
 that the Lord was by a
 wound was of danger-
 ous; that his wounds were
 soon to heal.

here inserted, that the world may see what an imperious
and bloody Villain this was; but this, as in the Postscript
he writes, was sent, but not delivered. The Letter super-
scribed, For His Excellency the Lord Willoughby our Pro-
prietour.

An Abstract of some passages out of Mr. Allings
Letter sent to His Excellency.

MY LORD,

Your Marshalls gave out that they were come
for me, which made me fly my house; I now
stand upon my guard, and am resolved never
to be seized by Mankind, &c. I do humbly
beg, desire, and expect, that you will by my Boy the
bearer send me your general pardon both for Words, Blas-
phemy, and Duels fought with Captain Parker, as like-
wise for this way of asking it; also a pardon for Captain
Parker, &c. If you do not send me this pardon full and
large, remember that you will be guilty of all the blood
that I shall spill, and mischief I shall do, which shall be
as great as ever was acted by the instructions and Bands
of a private man; upon the reception of which I will lay
by my Arms, and come in to your Lordship with the great-
est submission, &c. He that strikes his own life may
command any mans life in the world; and I have too much

If a Roman in me to possess my own life, when I cannot enjoy it with freedom and honour.

My Lord, but the very last night at your coming ashore I had your life in my hand, my sword drawn, and as much courage as ever Cæsar had; and my convenience was so great, that I was overcome with the advantage, my reason overcoming my passion, and telling me I can never lay an higher obligation upon this Nobleman, than by now passing his Life: and therefore (my Lord) remember however you deal by me, you met with a generous Enemy. My Lord, to conclude, if you seize my Boy, or that you force him to confess any thing, or that he be not with me by the setting of the Sun, or that he bring me no answer, I will conclude that you intend to destroy me, or at the least put ignominies upon me, which I will never endure; I will renounce all Allegiance, revenge my self on all my Enemies, then kill my self.

MY LORD,

I am your devoted Servant,

From the woods, Tuesday

Jan. 3. 1664.

JOHN ALLIN.

My Lord, I sent this yesterday by one of the clock,
but you were not at home.

His Letter was too large and too impertinent to be all inferred in this small Narrative, but these are the most material parts. But most of these Rants in their several Paragraphs were not written in his last Letter to his Excellency, for had they been sent, a cautious care had been taken to have prevented his design of Blood on his Excellency.

This night he lay in torment, with the anguish of his wound, which caused a violent Fever. He repeated for nothing but that he had not killed His Excellency; and cursed the Coat which he wore (which was one of his Negroes, that he might be the less known) that dulled his sword from cutting deep enough into his body. His Excellencies Chaplain giving him some spiritual advice, he bid him talk to the rabble, and not to him.

He gloried in the action he had committed, but grieved it was unsuccessful; and being by an intimate acquaintance interrogated of his Complices, he answered, He scorned any man should share with him in so noble an action. Being demanded whether he desired any thing to dispatch himself, he answered, He could do that in any time. And about 12 at night, the Marshal being gone out of the room, he drew forth a Pistol (which was supposed to be tyed to his thigh) charged up to the Muzzle, clapt it to his Brest, struck fire but it would not go off; he then called to a Centinel to spare him a stick, or fire to light his Pipe, which observed, he clapt the burning cole to the Pan, but all would not discharge the Pistol, which then discovered, was taken from him.

Being deprived of his Instrument to murder himself, he in vain solicited the Marshal privately for another, still continuing obstinately unrelenting, and grieved at nothing but that he had not murdered His Excellency and butchered himself.

On the fifth day he was sent down to the Gaol with a strong Guard, and seemed cheerful when he was put into the Boat, but had not gone above two Leagues, when feeling death approaching, but undiscernably to the Marshal and Guard, he discoursed a little, and was immediately seized with internal torments, and in a short time became senseless and expired. His carcase was delivered to the common Gaol, where it commanded several Chirurgeons to dissect him, and narrowly observe whether he had taken any poison in his Maw. They found a Pill of *Landicum* undigested, some digested, and some that had passed into his intestines. This was privately given him by one *Serjeant* the Chirurgeon that dressed him, enticed thereunto by a Diamond-ring and some small presents, who now in duance too late bewails his folly.

The Jury of Inquest found *Allin Felo de se*, and because such an unheard attempt merited an unusual punishment, his naked carcase was ordered to be dragged from the Gaol by the common Hangman, and Negroes, to the Pillory at the Town of *Tooravica*, where a Barbicue was erected; his Members cut off, and stung in his face, they and his Bowels burnt under the Barbicue, with a seditious paper which he had left to be published after his death, his Head to be cut off, and his Body to be quartered, and when dry-barbiqued or dry roasted, after the *Indian* manner, his Head to be stuck on a pole at *Parham*, and his Quarters to be put up at the most eminent places of the Colony.

The Pole to be of the most durable wood, to the future terror and cursed example of such incorrigible Villains.

Thus died this perverse Atheist, unparallel'd in History, whose profane passion, and enormous judgment of his cruel Fate, hurried him to this ignominious end, which his folly furnished should never seize him.

A most

A most remarkable Example to be seriously considered by all that slight the Omnipotent God; his Word and Service; blaspheme the most holy Saviour of the world; value their own Vanities, and deny their ears to good advice.

*It is my duty, and it hath been my care, to inform the World
of all the passages of this vile Assassinate and
wretched Miferable; wherein I have been exceeding
captious that only Truth should direct my pen.*

Jan. 21. 64.

WILLIAM BYAM

FINIS.

Let this Relation of John Allen stand
upon the Person of his Excellency Fran-
cis I. Willoughby of Parson, Captain
General of the Continent of Canada, &c.
be improved.

May 22. 1662.

ROGER LESTANGE.

*Let this Relation of John Allins Attempt
upon the Person of His Excellency Fran-
cis L. Willoughby of Parham, Captain
General of the Continent of Guiana, &c.
be Imprinted.*

May 23. 1665.

ROGER LESTRANGE

